

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 37289 01 OF 02 161850Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 MC-02 /069 W
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R 161859Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8067
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 37289

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, UR
SUBJ: PONOMAREV AND OTHER VISITORS TO PARIS

1. THE LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE SEEN UNUSUALLY HEAVY CON-
CENTRATION OF WELL-KNOWN SOVIET VISITORS TO PARIS--
WITH RATHER MIXED RESULTS.

2. MOST SENIOR AND IMPORTANT WAS PONOMAREV'S VISIT,
DECEMBER 7-12, WHO APPEARED AS COUVE DE MURVILLE'S
GUEST HEADING A SOVIET PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION. THE
PROGRAM WAS STANDARD: MEETINGS WITH PARLIAMENT'S
FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION AND WITH DE GUIRINGAUD
AND PARTICIPATION IN A FRANCE-USSR SOCIETY CONVENTION
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PAGE 02 PARIS 37289 01 OF 02 161850Z

HELD AT ROYAUMONT. COMMUNIQUE WAS ALSO STANDARD:
RETURN INVITATION FOR FRENCH PARLIAMENTARIANS, HEAVY
EMPHASIS ON DISARMAMENT, AND ROUTINE EXPRESSIONS OF
FRIENDSHIP.

3. WHAT WAS MORE INTERESTING ABOUT VISIT WAS APPAR-

ENTLY UNREGENERATE HARD-LINE POSITION PONOMAREV TOOK
ON VARIETY KEY QUESTIONS. ACCORDING TO FIGARO,
DECEMBER 15, PONOMAREV'S PRESENTATION TO FRENCH FOREIGN
AFFAIRS COMMISSION CONSISTED OF "READING A PHILLIPIC,"
WHICH, A PARTICIPATING DEPUTY TOLD FIGARO, "WAS OF
AN AGRESSIVENESS AND HEAVINESS REMINISCENT OF THE BEST
DAYS OF THE COLD WAR." PONOMAREV'S STRICTURES WERE
PARTICULARLY AIMED AT FRENCH ARMAMENTS AND ARMS SALES
POLICIES, TO EXTENT THAT COUVE DE MURVILLE IS QUOTED
AS HAVING REFERRED IN REPLY TO PONOMAREV'S "INDICTMENT"
(REQUISITOIRE), AND THEN DEFENDED FRENCH RECORD BY
ARGUING THAT PONOMAREV "KNEW WELL THAT THERE WERE IN
FACT ONLY TWO POWERS WHICH ABANDON THEMSELVES JOYOUSLY
AND WITHOUT INHIBITION TO ARMS RACE, "THE USSR AND THE
US." FIGARO REPORTS THAT, UNDETERRED, PONOMAREV
NEVERTHELESS REPLIED LATER ON IN SAME TERMS TO A
FRIENDLY TOAST BY ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT EDGAR FAURE,
PRODUCING "RENEWED CONSTERNATION."

4. THIS SOMBER TONE APPARENTLY ALSO MARKED
PONOMAREV'S TACTICS AT ROYAUMONT, WHERE HE ATTACKED THE
"INTENSIFICATION OF (WESTERN) MILITARY FORCES AND AN
INCREASE IN FOREIGN INTERVENTIONS IN THE POLITICS OF
(WESTERN) STATES"; CONDEMNED RISING US MILITARY SPEND-
ING, SAYING "A SITUATION DANGEROUS TO PEACE IS DEVELOP-
ING IN THE UNITED STATES"; AND CRITICIZED WESTERN
INTEREST IN BASKET III AS A "KIND OF CARTE BLANCHE

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PAGE 01 PARIS 37289 02 OF 02 161850Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 37289

TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOVIET UNION." ACCORDING TO A LOCAL JOURNALISTIC SOURCE PONOMAREV AND HIS ASSOCIATES ALSO USED ROYAUMONT MEETING TO ATTACK DIRECTLY ELECTED EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND TO LOBBY BLUNTLY AGAINST ITS ENDORSEMENT BY FRANCE.

5. COMMENT: ALL THIS DOES NOT STRIKE US AS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE WAY FOR SOVIETS TO MAKE FRIENDS IN FRANCE, EITHER ON RIGHT OR MODERATE LEFT. WHILE TEXT OF COMMUNIQUE WAS IRREPROACHABLE, CIRCULATING REPORTS OF TONE WHICH WAS ACTUALLY EMPLOYED WILL, IF ANYTHING, STIFFEN FRENCH BACKS FURTHER AGAINST PRESSURE TACTICS.
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PAGE 02 PARIS 37289 02 OF 02 161850Z

ONLY GROUPS LIKELY TO TAKE PLEASURE ARE HARDEST-LINE FRENCH COMMUNISTS AND PERHAPS CERTAIN GAULLISTS ON EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ISSUE.

6. FURTHER RECENT CONTRETEMPS, WHICH WE CANNOT EXPLAIN SO FAR, OCCURRED DURING QUIET VISIT BY YURI ZHUKOV. AS WE HEAR STORY HE ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT WITH GISCARD, GOT IT, AND THEN CANCELLED IT WITHOUT EXPLANATIONS, REPORTEDLY SAYING ONLY THAT HE HAD ANOTHER APPOINTMENT. ELYSEE IS SAID TO BE NONPLUSSED."

7. TO ROUND OUT PICTURE PRESS ANNOUNCES THAT YOURI BREZHNEV HAS ALSO JUST BREEZED INTO TOWN ON SO FAR UNCLEAR BUSINESS, PERHAPS INCLUDING SOME BROWSING AT THE CRAZY HORSE SALOON.
RUSH

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